

## Message Text

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DRAFTED BY:EA/IMS:DTKENNEY:LGR

APPROVED BY:EA - PHILIP C HABIB

S/S - MR SHANKLE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 118225

NODIS

FOL RPT JAKARTA 6316 ACTION SECSTATE 13 MAY QUOTE

S E C R E T JAKARTA 6316

NODIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ID, PT, PO

SUBJECT: DIPLOMATIC CORPS VISIT TO EAST TIMOR

REF : JAKARTA 6284

1. IN COURSE CONVERSATION REPORTED CN REFTEL, GENERAL MURDANI SAID PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT EAST TIMOR WOULD SHORTLY BE ISSUING INVITATIONS TO SELECTED CHIEFS OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN INDONESIA TO VISIT EAST TIMOR ON MAY 31. PROGRAM WOULD INCLUDE VISIT TO DILI AND HELICOPTOR TRIPF TO OTHER AREAS. EFFORTS WOULD BE MADE TO ARRANGE MEETINGS WITH LOCAL PEOPLE BUT THIS MAY BE DIFFICULT BECAUSE OF LANGUAGE PROBLEMS.

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2. I TOLD GENERAL MURDANI THAT I WAS CERTAIN HE WOULD UNDER-

STAND THAT I WOULD HAVE TO SEEK INSTRUCTIONS FROM WASHINGTON REGARDING ANY RESPONSE TO AN INVITATION FROM PGET. I WOULD ASSUME DEPARTMENT WOULD IN SUCH CASE BE CONCERNED OVER PORTUGUESE REACTION TO WHAT COULD BE CONSTRUED AS ENDORSEMENT OF PRESENT SITUATION IN EAST TIMOR. POLITICAL SITUATION IN PORTUGAL WAS DELICATE, MAINTENANCE OF NON-COMMUNIST LEADERSHIP THERE WAS SIGNIFICANT US OBJECTIVE AND WE NOT WISHNCREATE PROBLEMS WITH GOP AT THIS TIME. AT SAME TIME, AS GENERAL MURDANI KNOWS, US OBJECTIVE THROUGHOUT TIMOR PROBLEM HAS BEEN TO AVOID ANY CIRCUNSTANCES LIKELY CREATE DIFFICULTIES IN US-INDONESIAN RELATIONS.

3. MURDANI SAID HE UNDERSTOOD BUT AT SAME TIME GOI WOULD ATTACH IMPORTANCE TO RESPONSE FROM FRIENDLY COUNTRIES TO PGET INVITATIONS. PGET CONTACTS WITH PORTUGUESE REPORTED IN REFTTEL MIGHT HELP TO EASE PORTUGUESE REACTION. HE MENTIONED THAT AUSTRALIA ALSO FACES DILEMNA.

4. COMMENT: I AM CERTAIN PGET INVITATION WILL PRESENT REAL PROBLEM TO OTHER MISSIONS, INCLUDING DUTCM, AUSTRALIANS, AND SCANDANAVIANS. I INTEND QUIETLY TO SOUND OUT POSSIBILITY THAT THEY MIGHT ALSO WISH SUGGEST TO GOI SUCH INVITATION WOULD CREATE PROBLEMS; WE CAN PERHAPS DEFLECT IDEA BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE. IF INVITATION IS EXTENDED, I BELIEVE SOME FORM POSITIVE RESPONSE WILL BE IMPORTANT IN CONTEXT US-INDONESIAN RELATIONS. IF DEPARTMENT FEELS I SHOULD NOT GO PERSONALLY, I BELIEVE I HAVE LAID GROUNDWORK WITH MURDANI TO EXPLAIN WHY. IN SUCH CASE, HOWEVER, I BELIEVE WE SHOULD BE AUTHORIZED SEND ANOTHER EMBASSY OFFICER.

5. MURDANI HINTED, ALSO, THAT WHEN PGET OFFICE IS ESTABLISHED IN JAKARTA, PGET REPRESENTATIVES WILL WISH TO CALL ON DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS. IN SUCH CASE, I BELIEVE THEY SHOULD BE RECEIVED AT DCM LEVEL.

6. PLEASE INSTRUCT.

7. I LEAVE TO DEPARTMENT POSSIBLE REPEAT OF THIS MESSAGE TO LISBON.

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NEWSOM UNQUOTE  
ROBINSON

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS, INSTRUCTIONS, CAT-B, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, INVITATIONS, MISSION CHIEFS, VISITS  
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**To:** LISBON  
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